

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A system enabling a user to ask a question (query) and for providing the user with one or more answers or solutions to such question, the system comprising:

user apparatus for automatically generating first signals representative of a natural language user query that includes one or more query elements ~~comprising in the form of~~ (A-O), (S-A), (S-X-O), or (S), the user apparatus configured to extract the one or more query elements from the natural language user query and to generate one or more problem statements in the form of (A-O), (S-A), (S-X-O) or (S);

a server coupled to a knowledge base of semantically and automatically processed information including a plurality of available answers in the form of S-A-Os, the server configured to:

generate a knowledge base query from the all of the one or more problem statement and identify from the one or more query elements at least one knowledge base element S, O, or A, or (A-O) associated with at least one respective knowledge base answer S-A-O in the knowledge base that includes the one or more knowledge base query elements, in response to the server receiving the first signals; and

generate second signals representative of the at least one answer S-A-O, wherein the user apparatus is configured to generate a natural language audio message or visual display of the at least one answer S-A-O in response to receiving the second signals; and

communication devices configured to transmit the first signals from the user apparatus to the server and to transmit the second signals from the server to the user apparatus.

2. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said server conducts a search of the World Wide Web, identifies documents that include new answer S-A-O's each comprising an element or elements that match the one or more query elements, stores links to such documents, and adds such new answer S-A-O's to the knowledge base, and wherein the server includes, as part of the second signals, representations of each of the new answer S-A-O's.

3. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said server conducts said search automatically in response to the server determining that no knowledge base element or elements matches the one or more query elements or in response to a user search command.

4. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said server is programmed to query the user to determine if user wants to initiate the user search command.

5. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user apparatus converts human voice signals into said first signals.

6. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user apparatus converts second signals into audio signals.

7. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said user apparatus includes voice-to-text and text-to-voice recognition capability and a client software module for generating said first signals and for receiving said second signals.

8. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said user apparatus includes a user digital computer for generating said first signals and receiving said second signals.

9. (original) A system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said user apparatus further includes at least one user input device that includes a human voice to signal converter or a keyboard.

10. (original) A system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said user apparatus further includes at least one user input device that includes a signal to audio converter or a visual display monitor.

11. (previously presented) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second signals represent each answer S-A-O in sentence format.

12. (currently amended) In a digital computing system, a method enabling a user to input a question (query) and providing the user with one or more answers or solutions to such query, the method comprising:

generating automatically first signals representative of a natural language user query that includes one or more query elements comprising in the form of (A-O), (S-A), (S-X-O), or (S);

extracting the one or more query elements from the natural language user query and generating one or more problem statement in the form of (A-O), (S-A), (S-X-O) or (S);

providing a knowledge base of semantically and automatically processed information including a plurality of available answers in the form of S-A-O's;

generating a knowledge base query from the all of the one or more problem statements; and

identifying in the knowledge base, in response to the first signals, ~~from the one or more query elements at least one knowledge base element S, O, or A, or (A-O) associated with at least one respective knowledge base answer S-A-O in the knowledge base~~ that includes the knowledge base query elements; and

generating, in response to said identifying, second signals representative of the at least one answer S-A-O, and generating in response to the second signals a natural language audio message or visual display of the at least one answers S-A-O.

13. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising searching the World Wide Web, identifying documents that include new answer S-A-O's each comprising an element or elements that match the one or more query elements, storing links to such documents, and adding such new answer S-A-O's to the knowledge base, and wherein at least a part of the second signals represent each of the new answer S-A-O's.

14. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein said searching initiates automatically in response to identifying no knowledge base element or elements that matches the one or more query elements or in response to a user search command.

15. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 14, further including prompting the user to determine if user wants to initiate the user search command.

16. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising converting human voice signals into said first signals.

17. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising converting second signals into audio signals or visual display.

18. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 12, wherein generating the first signals includes converting voice-to-text.

19. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 12, wherein generating the audio message or visual display includes converting text-to-audio or voice-to-text.

20. (currently amended) A method of providing one or more solutions in response to a user query, the method comprising:

processing a natural language user query at a user device, including extracting the one or more query elements from the natural language user query and formatting the user query into an A-O, S-A, S-X-O or S problem statement, converting the ~~A-O~~ problem statement into a URL, and sending the URL to a semantic server knowledge base;

generating a knowledge base query from ~~processing~~ the URL at the semantic server knowledge base, which comprises a plurality of semantically processed S-A-O solutions to a plurality of ~~A-O~~ problem statements, the processing including:

searching for one or more S-A-O solutions associated with the ~~A-O~~ problem statement, and

if one or more S-A-O solutions are found, converting the one or more S-A-O solutions into at least one HTML page and sending the at least one HTML page to the user device; and

processing the at least one HTML page at the user device to output a solution to the user query.